

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A An angular ground covering element (2) of artificial stone material, ~~having a basic shape~~ corresponding to a unification of several square basic elements (4; 6; 8), ~~in particular an angular ground covering element (2),~~ the ground covering element (2) ~~comprising~~ including projections (16) and recesses (18) all-around its circumference,

wherein all circumferential basic element sides (12) ~~—as seen from the center (22) of the particular basic element upper side—~~ having have substantially the same profile (14) ~~which is substantially point-symmetric with respect its halving point (20),~~ ~~characterized in that~~ said profile (14) ~~consists~~ consisting of three projections (16 a, b, c) and three recesses (18 a, b, c);

and ~~in that~~ wherein, with respect to said profile (14), the middle projection (16b) and the middle recess (18b) ~~each are considerably wider than the two other~~ adjacent projections (16a, 16b) and recesses (18a, 18c), respectively.

2. (currently amended) A The ground covering element according to claim 1, characterized in that said projections (16) and recesses (18) ~~are~~ have a trapezoidal profile.

3. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 1, characterized in that said projections (16) and recesses (18) are confined ~~each~~ by an at least partly rounded line.

4. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 1, characterized in that the middle projection (16b) and the middle recess (18b) are at least 1.5 ~~4-8~~ times as wide as the two adjacent ~~other~~ projections (16a, 16c) and

recesses (18a, 18c), respectively, ~~and more preferably at least 2.0 times as wide as the two other projections (16a, 16c) and recesses (18a, 18c), respectively.~~

5. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it has~~ further including spacer projections (28) on its circumference, ~~with these spacer projections (28) being left disregarded in the consideration of the geometric relationships indicated in claim 1.~~

6. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ further including at least one dummy gap (26) on its upper side, which generally extends ~~preferably in conformity with~~ along the junction line of the unification of two adjacent basic elements (4; 6; 8).

7. (currently amended) A An angular ground covering element (2) of artificial stone material, ~~having a basic shape corresponding to a unification of several square basic elements (4; 6; 8), in particular an angular ground covering element (2), the ground covering element (2) comprising projections (16) and recesses (18) all around the its circumference and comprising retractions (30) on the circumference which result in efficient water penetration passages in a group of the adjacently laid ground covering elements (2),~~ for drainage of water, characterized in that the projections (16) and recesses (18) ~~in their entirety are defined by one profile (14) each for on~~ each circumferential basic element side (12) ~~, there being provided~~ are defined by a profile, extending from a first end to a second end of the basic element side, said profile being chosen from the group of profiles consisting of:

- (a) ~~on zero to all circumferential basic element sides (12), substantially a first profile (14a) each, having as seen from the center (22) of the particular basic element upper side-~~ a first profile (14a) having a first end neighboring projection (16a) adjacent the first end of the basic element side, a second end neighboring projection (16c) adjacent the second end of the basic element side and an end distance a third projection (16b) therebetween, said third projection being spaced

from the ends, wherein said retraction (30) is positioned between said second projection and one of said first and third projections;

~~(b) and on zero to part of the circumferential basic element sides (12), substantially a second profile (14b) each, having as seen from the center (22) of the particular basic element upper side—~~ a second profile (14b) having a first end neighboring projection (16a)) adjacent the first end of the basic element side and a second end neighboring projection (16c)) adjacent the second end of the basic element side, wherein said retraction (30) is positioned between said first and second projections ; and,

~~(c) and on zero to part of the circumferential basic element sides (12), substantially a third profile (14c) each, having as seen from the center (22) of the particular basic element upper side—~~ a third profile (14c) having an end distance a first projection (16a 16b) spaced from said first and second ends and an a second end neighboring projection (16a; 16c) adjacent the second end of the basic element side, wherein said retraction (30) is positioned between said first and second projections[[:]]

~~(d) wherein, furthermore, the additional condition holds that, on each circumferential basic element side (12), there is provided a first profile (14a) or a second profile (14b) or a third profile (14c);~~

~~(e) and wherein finally, for laying a group of the ground covering elements (2) adjacent each other,~~

~~—— a first profile (14a), if provided, can be applied to a first profile (14a), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element;~~

~~—— or can be applied to a second profile (14b), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element;~~

~~—— or can be applied to a third profile (14c), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element;~~

~~—— a second profile (14b), if provided, can be applied to a second profile (14b), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element;~~

~~_____ or can be applied to a third profile (14c), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element,~~

~~_____ and a third profile (14c), if provided, can be applied to a third profile, if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element.~~

8. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, characterized in that said projections (16) and recesses (18) are trapezoidal.

9. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, characterized in that said projections (16) and recesses (18) are confined each by an at least partly rounded line.

10. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, characterized in that said retractions (30) are trapezoidal.

11. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, characterized in that the retractions (30) are each confined by an at least partly rounded line.

12. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, characterized in that, with respect to the first profile (14a),

- the first end neighboring projection (16a) begins substantially at the first end of the basic element side (12),

- a first recess (18c) is provided adjacent to the second end neighboring projection (16c) has beside itself a recess (18c), said first recess extending up to the second end of the basic element side (12),

- ~~an additional~~ a second recess (18a) is provided between the ~~end distance~~ third projection (16b) and one of the first and second end neighboring projections (16a; 16c),

- ~~and a retraction (30) is provided between the end distance projection (16b) and the other end neighboring projection (16c; 16a) and,~~

- wherein said ~~two~~ first and second end neighboring projections (16a, 16c) and said ~~two~~ first and second recesses (18a, 18c) ~~having all~~ have substantially the same width.

13. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, characterized in that, with respect to the second profile (14b),

- the first end neighboring projection (16a) begins substantially at the first end of the basic element side (12),

- a recess (18c) is provided adjacent to the second end neighboring projection (16c) ~~has beside itself a recess (18c), said recess~~ extending up to the second end of the basic element side (12), and;

~~- a retraction (30) is provided between these projections (16a, 16c),~~

- wherein said ~~two~~ first and second projections (16a, 16c) and said recess (18c) ~~having~~ have all substantially the same width (Fig. 5).

14. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, characterized in that, with respect to the third profile (14c),

- a first recess (18c) is provided adjacent to the second end neighboring projection (16c) ~~has beside itself a recess (18)~~ said first recess extending up to the neighboring second end of the basic element side (12),

- a second recess (18a) is provided adjacent to the first end distance projection (16b) ~~has beside itself an additional recess (18a)~~ said second recess extending up to the first end of the basic element side (12) ~~that is closer to the same,~~ and ;

~~- a retraction (30) is provided between the end distance projection (16b) and the end neighboring projection (16c),~~

- wherein said second end neighboring projection (16c) and said first recess (18c) ~~having~~ have substantially the same width and said ~~additional~~ second recess (18a) ~~having~~ has substantially twice the width with respect thereto.

15. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, characterized in that the retraction (30) ~~in each of the first profile (14a) and/or the second profile (14b) and/or the third profile (14c)~~ is at least 33 % of the width of the particular circumferential basic element side (12), ~~preferably at least 40 % and most preferably at least 50 %.~~

16. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, characterized in that the particular retraction (30) ~~is at least in part taken back~~ extends further into the ground covering element than the ~~recess or recesses~~ (48) of the particular basic element side (12).

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that it has~~ further including spacer projections (28) on its circumference, ~~with these spacer projections (28) being left disregarded in the consideration of the geometric relationships indicated in claim 7.~~

20. (currently amended) A The ground covering element (2) according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that it has~~ further including at least one dummy gap (26) on its upper side, which generally extends ~~preferably in conformity with~~ along the junction line of the unification of two adjacent basic elements (4; 6; 8).

21. (cancelled)